

## Special Education State Advisory Committee

### General Meeting

September 22, 2015

Johns Hopkins University, Center for Technology in Education

### Minutes

#### I. Welcome

Welcome and Introductions: Kelly Meissner, Rhonda Creecy, April Edwards, Kathy Barrazotto, Sarah Wayland, Marjorie Guildan, Rachel London, Leanne Carmona, Brian Fausel, Carol Strootman, Kathy Kaufman - Carol Co Schools, Dori Flynn-by phone

Rachel Hyman-Harford Co SECAC-Guest

Carmen Brown – staff

Review and approval of the minutes

#### II. Dispute Resolution

Dori Wilson was introduced by Kelly M, who gave a framework for the discussion. Dispute Resolution stats are public. The Branch within DSE/EIS includes an informal portion of the Branch that resolves most matters so they do not require formal resolution. In the event of a formal dispute resolution – IDEA requires 1) state complaints, 2) mediation, and 3) Due Process. Office of Administrative Hearings processes all Due Process Hearings. There was a discussion regarding ALJ training and a review and discussion that the Branch provides training and quarterly meetings with judges. There are approx. 250 Due Process hearings filed/year. Most do not move forward-about 10% do. There was a discussion about rights through IDEA, procedural protocols, as well as perceptions about what occurs within the IEP, school systems, etc.

Reviewed handouts provided by Dispute Resolution: Link and discussion about how to maneuver the website to access the necessary documents, directions and forms. Summary of trends in Due Process and complaints over the past year was reviewed.

Questions and discussion about trainings for ALJs: MSDE provides 1 full day of training for ALJ's, quarterly meetings, as well as \$25,000 for them to use for related training.

#### III. Transition

Christy Stewart presented and led a discussion and review of handouts, SPP/APR secondary transition indicators - secondary transition, drop out, transition and outcomes – after kids leave school. Update on PROMISE Initiative (DOD is the lead)– enrollment of 2000 14-16 yr olds who are eligible for SSI. Close to goal at 1,600 now. There was a discussion about implementation of the strategies after the study portion of the grant. PostSecondary Ed offerings update-

collaboration with colleges, dual enrollment, range of services and programs (ie In Carroll Co), TIP-SID Grant update – Office of Postsecondary Education – have not heard from the feds re: the grant application. Application includes a consortium of colleges. Assessment Toolkit – 8 local Transition Coordinators developed a workgroup to discuss, review protocols, and best practices. Looked at what other states are doing and reviewed the literature. Will be developing and modeling the work of the transition coordinators that will be accessible on learning links.

Development of Webinar series to discuss the IEP writing, acknowledging the voice of the child and family, educating transition coordinators, and quality transition planning.

WIOA – VR – Vocational Rehabilitation- must take 15% of funding and use it for youth ages 14 and up with disabilities. Pre-employment skills, employment experience, work readiness training, self-advocacy. Even those on the waiting list, or who are not eligible for DORS, may be eligible for WIOA pre-employment services.

Discussion about the Transition Steering Committee – All LSS's are represented. Request for a list of transition specialists across the school.

Outcomes – LSS are responsible for review of IEP, results, etc. DSE/EIS will send each local transition coordinator their own report cards as well as back mapping reports. Can learn lessons from results and make data informed decisions.

Statewide Toolkits (STEPS) – generates reports based on our SPP/APR data. Can go down to the County level. Piloting in Frederick Co.

Digital Portfolio – Reviewed portfolio and plan for pilot. 4 school systems – one school within each system – one age group within each school. Seamless to the on-line IEP system, features of portfolio connect more easily to the on-line IEP. Working on the development of age-maps with recommendations for which work is done at what age. Unique in that it is “owned” by the student. Expanding content as it is being rolled out. Plan to rollout state-wide in 2017-2018. Developing a stakeholder workgroup.

Parents' Place received a grant from DSE/EIS to develop a parent training re: transition. They will include information on the Digital Portfolio.

#### IV. SECAC Updates

Harford Co SECAC – Chair, co-chair, treasurer and a secretary, parents and Director of Spec Ed. Membership #'s have varied, parents sign up and become a member, mainly elementary school families, disabilities represented vary greatly, very little participation from the Title 1 Schools or families with low income, meetings in the evenings, no childcare or transportation is provided. The first meeting of this year had 60 parents. SECAC has done outreach since the spring to get members and have increased membership from 5 parents to 60. Local Farm Fair – had an outreach table to connect to families.

School system has been minimally supportive of the SECAC. Trying to partner with the PTA, have discussions with Board, etc. Discussion of local autonomy and limits being set by individual principals.

AA County SESAC – Chair, co-chair, secretary, treasurer, Director of Spec Ed, SLP, Partners for Success, parents, mix of public and non-public, 8-12 core group of parents, a little heave on non-

public, child must have an IEP for 504 to be on the Board. Speakers are at most meetings, 20-25 people average. Mtgs in Annapolis in the evenings with no child care. Resource fair sponsored by the SECAC - well over 100 people in attendance from all over the county and school personnel, also host big speaker events one time per year, and awards, and survey of parental knowledge of SECAC. Website, facebook page, connect-ed message (but goes out to ALL families). Struggle with trickle down to parents, purchases (go-to-meeting), survey monkey, info cards, given out at each IEP county-wide, struggle to get individuals to look globally and not think only of their children. Need to narrow their focus. This is the first year for actual advising to the Board being done.

V. Open Discussion/Announcements:

SESAC considerations- Is it our role and what can the SESAC do to support parents? Invite ALJs to Town Hall to hear concerns. Consider OAH to sit on the SESAC, invite the ALJ to the local SECAC "Roadshow." Work with ALJ's to develop "one-pagers" for parents. What can SESAC do to make what leads up to the Due Process hearing better or not relevant (ie IEP process, facilitating conversation, developing relationships, moving forward to formal dispute resolution process). IEP Facilitation was also discussed as an option.

SESAC Considerations? Have speakers from DSE/EIS re: SPP/APR

Directions on how to spend federal funds for SECAC

SESAC representation on the stakeholder workgroup for the Portfolio.

FU for clarification with Marcella on Parental access to children within individual schools.

DD Council Sib conference – registration remaining.

Thursday webinar series with DD Council and the ARC of MD re: inclusive childcare.

Dispute Resolution suggested to be a standing agenda item 2x/yr

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**EXEC Team Meeting Minutes:**

**Planning for NEXT MONTH's SESAC Mtg-**

**How to address moving agenda items forward as recommendations and guidance to DSE/EIS.**

**Kelly and I will develop recommendations for Marcella for the SESAC to agree on – recommendation that individuals responsible for certain indicators present their data.**

**Marcella on the agenda – 30 minutes to speak, 30 minutes for conversation – recommendation for one pagers for dispute resolution process- information to be shared in an easy to read way (road map SPEC Ed Process - DONNA) and parental rights – easily understandable.**

**Carroll Co SECAC**

**Frederick or PG SECAC**

**Open up MD LL chat – clear out all approved members, load current names, and post items and have discussions. C if there is a way to notify folks about new postings.**